



Truth for Today

June 7, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

The Answer We Need

by Max Dawson

Our nation was shocked last week at the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The video of Floyd has been seen on every news channel numerous times. That graphic, horrifying, and disgusting video will forever be etched indelibly in our minds.

We will remember George Floyd for the rest of our lives. We will also remember Ahmaud Arbery. The video of Arbery's death emerged just a few weeks ago. He was killed as two men tried to apprehend him as he jogged through a neighborhood.

Both incidents involved black men dying at the hands of white men. You cannot watch the videos without feeling pain. Pain for the men who suffered. Pain for their families. Pain for all decent human beings who respect people of all races. And now, pain for all those who served the black community whose businesses have been destroyed.

While we have learned to be cautious in judging before the facts are in, can any of us look at the George Floyd video and not see something terribly wrong? Horribly, disgustingly wrong?

Is there an answer to racial issues? Some say no. They would have us think that, as a culture, in spite of all the advancements we have made, we are forever doomed to repeat such horrific incidents and to face the ugly and violent aftermath of such atrocities!

Is there an answer? Indeed there is! But we must first identify the problem. SIN is the problem. Call racism what it is. SIN.

God hates racial prejudice. God does not make the kinds of racial distinctions and judgments that we make (Acts 10:34-35; Galatians 3:28). God sees all of us as children of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:20). He sees us all as being of one blood (Acts 17:26). We need to see each other as God sees us.

The sin problem in our culture is a heart problem. All the wickedness and violence come from one place--the human heart. So said Jesus in Matthew 15:9. Men need "a new heart and a new spirit" (Ezekiel 36:26). When men truly have Jesus in their lives they have hearts that have been renewed by His grace (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-24). Renewed hearts are not filled with hatred and violence!

It is time for us to boldly tell our culture--black, white, Hispanic, Asian, everyone--that Jesus is the answer to the sin problem--the answer to the heart problem. Only He can truly make our hearts what they ought to be. Men need to learn and obey His gospel from the heart (Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-4, 16-17).

That answer may not be one that most folks want to hear. But it is the real answer. The only answer that comes from heaven. It is the answer you need. The answer I need. Only when you and I find that answer will we love God and love each other in the way God intended (Matthew 22:37-40).

May God give us the wisdom and grace to accept His answer.

A Pledge Against Racism

by Benjamin Lee

I watched my discussion I did on racism while I was at the Dowlen Road church of Christ in Beaumont. At the end of the discussion, Kevin Clark spoke about the Birmingham Pledge. He read it, but I quickly forgot it.

I'm saddened to admit that. It's pretty powerful.

All of these events and discussions I've had with others is making me go back and listen to all of my sermons dealing with racism. I'm going to post them on the "The Nehemiah Effect" Facebook page. Please like and share the page when you get a chance.

HERE ARE DETAILS ABOUT THE BIRMINGHAM PLEDGE...

The Birmingham Pledge is a statement of principles at the heart of a grassroots effort, started in Birmingham, to eliminate racism and prejudice. Launched in 1998, the pledge has spread worldwide. Programs using the Birmingham Pledge have been reported in all 50 states and more than 20 countries.

The Birmingham Pledge was written by Birmingham attorney James E. Rotch in November 1997 during a return trip from a Leadership Alabama meeting in Mobile. The pledge was initially promoted by the Community Affairs Committee of Operation New Birmingham, a biracial group of civic leaders that has met weekly since the 1960s. The Community Affairs Committee introduced it publicly at the 1998 Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast in Birmingham. There, more than 2,000 Birmingham residents joined in reciting the pledge together. By 2008, when the pledge celebrated its 10th anniversary, more than 120,000 individuals had returned signed copies of the pledge or had signed the pledge online. Many people have used the pledge for local programs or as a teaching aid in Alabama, in other states, and internationally.

The Birmingham Pledge

- I believe that every person has worth as an individual.
- I believe that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race or color.
- I believe that every thought and every act of racial prejudice is harmful; if it is my thought or act, then it is harmful to me as well as to others.
- Therefore, from this day forward I will strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions.
- I will discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity.
- I will treat all people with dignity and respect; and I will strive daily to honor this pledge, knowing that the world will be a better place because of my effort.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Linda Faughn's** surgery went very well. The doctor said she would feel better soon and stop being so out of breath and weak.
- **Harvey Goble's** surgery was success. n 6/3 at St. Luke's Medical Center for thyroid. COVID pretesting the week before.
- **Doug Hall** has started physical therapy to build strength.
- **Debbie Harshman** got a second opinion and determined that the condition was allergies and has cancelled the MRI.
- **Mitch Harvey** is scheduled for an ablation on July 15th.
- Several of our senior members who are confined in their senior home and still unable to get out are feeling blue and would love your prayers, cards and calls: **the Halls, Bill Hooton, Linda Peterson, the Yaws**
- **Erin Dulin's** mother fell and had a break just below the ball of her right shoulder. No surgery is scheduled yet to let it heal naturally.
- Ed Brand, along with his wife Pat, who live in Russellville, Alabama (whom we support), is COVID-19 positive and quarantined.
- PRAY FOR PEACE. There is much unrest and much hurt and hatred in our society. It is frightening for many and there are many civil servants, and private citizens, putting themselves in harm's way to keep peace. There are also many people hurting as evidenced by what caused the protests that were peaceful. You can make a difference by loving all of them, listening to them and embracing them. Love everyone and pray for everyone.

—See Enews for Ongoing Prayer List

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- Sunday Worship Assemblies
 - Reserved seating for members and those who regularly attend with us. Please con-

tact an elder if there is any change planned in upcoming weeks: if you 1) will be out of town, 2) are changing your time slot (from last Sunday) or, 3) if you will have more than your family.

- KIDzONLY Summer BIBLE CLASSES | LiveStream Sundays, 8:00 a.m.
- TEEN Summer BIBLE CLASS | Zoom Sundays, 2:30 p.m.
- Summer ADULT CLASSES
 - *Songs Outside The Psalter* | LiveStream Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
 - *Psalm 119 | The Psalm of the Word* | LiveStream Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.
- BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES | (ZOOM, 6/7)
- 2:52 Kids Class [2-12] | (TBA)
- TEENS STUDY [13-18] | (TBA)
- YOUNG ADULTS | (TBA)
- TEEN DEVO [12-18] | (TBA)
- ADULT STUDY [30/40] | (TBA)
- BARNABAS GROUP | See Leo Betancourt
- VBS | THE OVERCOMERS | M-Th., 6/22-25
 - **Registration is nearly to capacity!** Register today!
- WORKDAY | 8/1, 8-10 am
- YOUTH LECTURES | with *Caleb Churchill and Andy Harrison* | Sat-Sun, 8/8-9
- MEETING with *Ben Hall* | 9/13-16
- WOMEN'S DAY with *Sarah Sanford Lyon* | 10/10
- MEN'S DAY with *David McClister* | 11/7

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- The most recent printed directory is in the foyer for members. Changes? See Brian Clark for any corrections or changes.
- **We would like all families** to update their information and ALL worship leaders to do the same. If you have any questions about the DIRECTORY application of our website, **be sure to see Brian Clark.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS for 2020**, including Communion Prep, visitor greeting and bi-monthly building lockup.
- **WOULD YOU TEACH?** John Beighle is looking for teachers for the fall quarter (Sept-Nov). Email or text him if you would like to teach.
- **HOSPITALITY?** For the next six months, **Marissa Suarez** has volunteered to coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period. Please offer your help!
- See **Leo Betancourt** about getting involved in encouraging our visitors and members in the Barnabas Group.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

- **Week Twenty-Three** (beginning 6/7)
 - Read Psalm 22, 72, 122
 - Memorize Psalm 22:1-5
- **Signup for weekly reminders at** <https://www.remind.com/join/weeklymemo>

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
<i>KidzOnly Bible Class</i>	n/a	14	n/a	6
<i>High School ZOOM</i>	n/a	13	n/a	15
<i>Sunday Adult Class</i>	n/a	14	n/a	19
<i>Sunday Worship AM</i>	100	85	133	96
<i>Sunday Worship PM</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Wednesday PM</i>	n/a	29	n/a	10

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE & WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS	8:30 AM June 14	10:00 AM June 14	Contact Information
<i>Communion Preparation</i>	George & LouAnn C.	George & LouAnn C.	Elders
<i>Sound Booth</i>	Chris L.	Chris L.	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
<i>Foyer 1/Greeting</i>	Adam B.	Stuart J.	George Chapman 281.298.1303
<i>Foyer 2/Usher</i>	Leo B.	Al S.	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
<i>SongLeading</i>	Adam B.	Jonathon C.	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
<i>1st Prayer</i>	George C.	Les C.	Deacons
<i>Scripture Reading</i>	Michael H.—Proverbs 15:1-10	Clint F.—1Peter 5:1-7	John Beighle 806.367.3389
<i>Communion</i>	Brian C.	Dwight H.	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
<i>Bread</i>	n/a	n/a	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
<i>Fruit of Vine</i>	n/a	n/a	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
<i>Contribution</i>	n/a	n/a	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
<i>Assist</i>	n/a	n/a	Evangelists
<i>Assist</i>	n/a	n/a	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
<i>Preaching</i>	Hayden C.	Barrett B.	Website
<i>2nd Prayer</i>	Gerald H.	Stuart J.	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
<i>Announcements</i>	Jay D.	Keith A.	Office Phone
<i>InterService Clean—Foyer/Bath</i>	John & Jeanette B.	Al & Marissa S.	281.367.2099
<i>InterService Clean—Auditorium</i>	Adam & Stacie B.	Clint & Liv F.	Church Email
<i>Doors Open @8 Lockup @11:30</i>	John B.	Mickey C.	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com